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IN THE CLAIMS

1-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Presently amended) A method for distributing multimedia content over a network from a first device to a second device, the method comprising:
requesting a transfer of said content by the first device;
determining if the first device has the existence of permission to make copies receive at least one copy copies of said content;
providing playback means identification from a playback means of the first device to a distribution means the second device, wherein the identification of the first device is a certificate;
the first device requesting said distribution means the second device to authenticate said playback means the first device;
the first device requesting distribution means identification of the second device from said distribution means, said distribution means identification being requested by said playback means;
providing the identification of the second device to the first device, wherein the idcntification of the second device is a certificate;
the first device authenticating the second device;
the second device registering said playback means the first device so as to trace said content distributed to said playback means said first device, said step of registering being performed by said distribution means;
authenticating said playback means the first device;

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~~determining if said playback means has permission to access said content;~~
~~providing said distribution means identification to said playback means;~~
~~requesting an initiation of secure communications;~~
~~authenticating said distribution means;~~
~~instructing said distribution means to begin transferring said content; and~~
~~transferring said content from said distribution means to said playback means.~~

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Presently amended) The method of claim 5 wherein:

~~said distribution means~~ the second device is a personal versatile recorder.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein:

Said content is at least one copyrighted work.

10. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein:

Said connection is encrypted by said distribution means.

11-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Presently amended) The method of claim 5 wherein:

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~~said local area~~ the network is a wireless network.

15. (Presently amended) The method of claim 5 wherein:

~~said step of determining the existence of permission for said playback means to access said content is performed by said distribution means~~ the determining if the first device has permission to receive at least one copy of said content is performed by the second device.

16. (Presently amended) The method of claim 5 wherein an embedded self-destruction feature is contained within said content, said method further comprising the steps of:

~~determining whether a self-destruction feature is to be activated, wherein upon activation of said self-destruction feature,~~

a) ~~said playback means~~ the first device's identification is reported to a system operator, and

b) said content is erased from said distribution means.

17-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Presently amended) A system for distributing content over a network, comprising:

a distribution device interfaced to said network for distributing content, and at least one playback device for playing or producing said content for a human user, said at least one playback device being interfaced to said network for receiving said content,

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wherein said distribution device determines existence of permission to make copies of said content and then encrypts said content for transmission to said at least one playback device to prevent unauthorized use of copying of said content and registers the at least one playback device so as to trace the content distributed to the at least one playback device.

28. (Previously presented) The system of claim 27, wherein said content is encrypted using private/public key encryption.

29. (Previously presented) The system of claim 27, wherein said content is encrypted using digital certificates.

30. (Previously presented) The system of claim 27, wherein said distribution device comprises a Personal Video Recorder.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously presented) The system of claim 27, wherein said content is transferred from said distribution device to said playback device using a Secure Socket Layer (SSL) connection.

33-45. (Cancelled)